(b) if so, what effective steps the Government propose to take to make the law more rigorous and to make the existing enforcement machinery more stringent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESWAR THAKUR) : (a) and (b): Various new and stringent legislative measures introduced in India ;in the recent years have been effective in discouraging drug trafficking in and through India. These measures include provisions for rigorous imprisonment from 10 to 30 years, death penalty for repeat offences in certain cases, making drug trafficking a non-bailable offence, trail of such offences in special courts for speedy disposal, and freezing and forfeiture of traffickers financial assets and properties derived from illicit drug trafficking. The legislative measures coupled with a multi-pronged enforcement drive carried our by various enforcement agencies in the country have proved to be effective in tackling drug menace.

Repair of National Highway No.47

7151. SHRI THAYIL JOHN ANJALOSE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Highway No. 47 passing through Alleppey District has been damaged by flood at several places;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government for the repairs of the highway; and

(c) the time by which the repair work is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER):

(a) Yes , Sir.

(b) and (c) Maintenance of National Highway is a continuing activity and the State PWD is taking necessary action to carry out the urgent repairs to keep National Highways in a traffic worthy condition.

Legislation for Marriage with a Foreigner

7152. SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of LLAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a)Whether the Union Government proposed to bring forward legislation making it mandatory to obtain the prior approval of the government for marriage with a foreigner:

(b) if so, the details thereof?

(c) whether there is any such restriction at present in relation to any class of citizens or Government employees; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTRY OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE, AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KUMARMANGALAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) . Rule 8 of the Indian Foreign Service (Conduct and Discipline) Rules, 1961, as amended in 1986, provides inter alia that a member of the Indian Foreign Service shall not contract a marriage with any person other than an Indian citizen without the prior permission in writing of the Government.

Marriage between Indians And Saudis

7153. SHRI MORESWAR SAVE: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state;

(a) whethar Saudi Embassy had requested the Union Government to advise Muslim institutions and centres , which solemnise marriages, not to confirm contracts of marriage between the Indians and and the Saudis, without the permission of the Embassy and

(b) if so, the the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW , JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The said communication of the Embassy states that with a view to safeguard the interests of both the parties in case of marriage between Saudi National and Indian Nationals the Muslim institutions and centre authorised to solemnise marriages may be advised not to confirm the marriage contract in case where one party happens to be a Saudi nationals unless they provide a written permission of the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia in New Delhi.

Instructions by the Government, as provided in the Passport Manual to deal with the cases of Indian Woman married to Arabs are as follows:

"A number of Muslims ladies are marrying Arabs. . In some cases, Government's attention is drawn to their being exploited while abroad. While it is not possibie to deny passport facilities to adults, who are married according to their own laws, it is nonetheless essential to protect their interests. The Passport Authorities are required to exercise, the caution in issuing passport to such ladies, after they have fully satisfied themselves and have received recommendations from our Missions as per the prescribed procedure. The Passport Authorities are further requested to issue them a limited validity passport for two years and intimate passport particulars to the concerned Indian Mission, which would then be in a position to look after their welfare. The passports may be renewed for a further restrictive/normal period after the Consular Officers have satisfied themselves and after getting clearance from the original passport authority."

Apart from the above matter is under consideration of the Government as to how best the situation can be met with legally.

[*Translation*]

Utilisation of Bank Deposits in Bihar on Development Works

7154. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHURY:
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the number of branches of nationalised banks in Bihar and the total amount deposited therein;

(b) the per capita investment make in Bihar by the commercial banks and how does it compare with other States; and

(c) the percentage of the total deposits with the banks utilised in Bihar on development works.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) As at the end of June 1991, 2953 branches of pubiic sector Banks were functioning in Bihar, Aggregate deposits of Public Sector Banks in Bihar on the last